GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1216
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
TRADE WITH AFRICA
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been planning to increase trade with African countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the strategy adopted by the Government in this regard;

(d) the details of the present level of trade with African countries; and

(e) the extent to which it has been increased?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) : Yes Sir,

(b)&(c) : The `Focus Africa Programme` was launched on 31.3.2002 to further expand and deepen India`s bilateral trade engagement with African countries. Initially it covered seven countries of Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Region, namely, South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana and Ethiopia. Subsequently, the scope of this Programme was further extended with effect from 1.4.2003 to include Angola, Botswana, Ivory-Coast, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, Morocco and Algeria. Several other measures such as strengthening of institutional arrangements like Trade Agreements, Joint Trade Committees and Joint Trade Commissions, Business to Business interactions and exchange of high level visits have also been taken to promote trade with African countries.

(d) & (e): As per the database of DGCIS, Kolkata, the non-oil commodity trade with African countries during 2006-07 amounted to US $ 15031.05 Million, as against US $ 11872.09 Million during 2005-06.